

*Application No.: 10/676,069
Art Unit : 3634*

*Docket No. 23358.00
Confirmation No. 7782*

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has revised the ABSTRACT, as required by the Examiner, and amended Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 15, and 18-20. Applicant has also canceled Claims 4, 12, 16, and 17. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, and 18-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7, 8, 13, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Positive recitations of the unclaimed ladder and specifics of the clamps have been removed from the claims by the present amendment.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Roketa. Claims 2, 5, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roketa. Applicant appreciatively notes the Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 4, 12, 13, and 16-20.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 8 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 4 and 12, respectively. Applicant has also amended Claim 15 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 16 and 17 written in alternative form. Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable.

Application No.: 10/676,069
Art Unit : 3634

Docket No. 23358.00
Confirmation No. 7782

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Litman
Registration No. 30,868
(703) 486-1000

RCL:dht/ckf